

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 00436 111211Z

14

ACTION AF-06

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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O R 091705Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2198

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONGEN CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY KISNSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONGEN LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUASAKA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 0436

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AO DA

SUBJ: VISIT OF MPLA REPS; GARBA PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: A) STATE 030983; B) STOCKHOLM 0367; C) HELSINKI 0161

BEGIN SUMMARY: A TWO-MAN MPLA DELEGATION ARRIVED HERE

YESTERDAY TO "PRESSURE" THE DANES TO RECOGNIZE THAT
ORGANIZATION. THE MPLA REPRESENTATIVES ARE GUESTS OF

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PAGE 02 COPENH 00436 111211Z

THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND THE TRADE UNION CONGRESS (LO)

AND WILL CALL ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN HIS CAPACITY AS A PARTY LEADER. IN AN ARRIVAL PRESS CONFERENCE, ARISTIDES VAN DUNEM APPEARED TO TAKE A MODERATE POSITION. VAN DUNEM'S ASSURANCES TAKEN TOGETHER WITH THE DECLINING FORTUNES OF THE OPPONENTS OF THE MPLA ARE PROBABLY HAVING THEIR EFFECT ON THE DANES. BUT WE WERE ASSURED TODAY BY AN MFA OFFICIAL THAT DANISH RECOGNITION OF ANY ANGOLAN FACTION IS NO NEARER TODAY THAN LAST NOVEMBER.

END SUMMARY.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1) WITHOUT ADVANCE PUBLICITY, A TWO-MAN MPLA DELEGATION ARRIVED IN COPENHAGEN FEBRUARY 8 FOR A THREE-DAY VISIT AS GUESTS OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP) AND THE TRADE UNION CONGRESS (LO). REPORTEDLY COMING FROM THE NETHERLANDS WHERE THEY WERE HOSTED BY THE DUTCH LO, POLITIKEN (INDEPENDENT-LEFT OF CENTER) TODAY (FEBRUARY 9) DESCRIBES THE VISITORS AS ARISTIDES VAN DUNEM, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MPLA, AND NOE DE SILVA SAUDE, SECRETARY OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT, UNTA. THEY ARE SCHEDULED TO HOLD A PUBLIC MEETING IN COPENHAGEN TODAY. TIMORROW, THEY WILL MEET WITH THE FOLKETING'S UN COMMITTEE AND CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN.

2. IN AN INTERVIEW GIVEN UPON ARRIVAL, VAN DUNEM PRESENTED THE MPLA AS REPRESENTING THE POPULAR WILL OF THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE, NOT NECESSARILY "SOCIALIST", AND NOT SUSCEPTIBLE TO SOVIET MANIPULATION. HE SAID THAT THE PURPOSE OF VISITS TO WESTERN EUROPEAN CAPITALS WAS THE PUT "PRESSURE" ON THESE GOVERNMENTS TO RECOGNIZE THE MPLA AND PROVIDE IT WITH ASSISTANCE.

3) "...THE MPLA IS NOT A SOCIALIST MOVEMENT" VAN DUNEM WAS QUOTED AS SAYING. "...THE MPLA IS A FREEDOM FRONT OF MANY DIFFERENT TENDENCIES....BEFORE THE (ANGOLAN) PEOPLE TAKE OVER POWER AND WE ESTABLISH AN OPEN AND PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRACY, IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR US TO CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 COPENH 00436 111211Z

PRESENT OURSELVES AS A PARTY IN ANY WAY....IT IS THEREFORE WRONG TO LABEL US AS 'AFRICAN NATIONALISTS' OR 'MARXIST'."

4) VAN DUNEM ACKNOWLEDGED THE ASSISTANCE, "WITHOUT CONDITIONS", THE MPLA HAS RECEIVED FROM "SOCIALIST COUNTRIES" BUT POINTED OUT THE "INVASIONS" BY SOUTH AFRICA AND SAIRE IN BEHALF OF THE FNLA AND UNITA AND

SAID THAT EVEN THIS OUTSIDE SUPPORT WAS NOT ENOUGH
SINCE THESE ORGANIZATIONS ARE NOT "POPULAR MOVEMENTS".
THERE WAS NO REPORTED REFERENCE TO U.S. ASSISTANCE.

5) WHEN ASKED ABOUT FUTURE MPLA ATTITUDES TOWARD THE
OTHER TWO ANGOLAN ORGANIZATIONS, VAN DUNEM REPLIED,
"IN THE GIGANTIC RECONSTRUCTION PERIOD AHEAD, NO PURPOSE
WOULD BE SERVED BY STRESSING OLD CONFLICTS. (OUR)
VICTORY SHOULD NOT BE FOLLOWED BY A THIRST FOR REVENGE."
HE ALSO LOOKED FORWARD TO GOOD RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL
AND EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT A NUMBER OF PORTUGUESE
WHO HAD FLED FROM ANGOLA ARE RETURNING "HOME" AGAIN.

6) IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION, VAN DUNEM SAID THT WHAT
HE EXPECTS FROM DENMARK IS "PRIMARILY SUPPORT FOR OUR
CAUSE" AS WELL AS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN HUMANITARIAN
FIELDS. END UNCLASSIFIED

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7) COMMENT: THOUGH UNHERALDED, THE VISIT OF MPLA
REPRESENTATIVES HERE IS NOT UNEXPECTED. THE CALL ON
FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSEN WILL BE HELD OUT TO BE IN HIS
CAPACITY AS A LEADING SDP POLITICIAN.

8) NEWS TODAY OF THE FALL OF HUAMBO, THE WASHINGTON
POST STORY OF GARBA'S ACCOUNT OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH
THE SECRETARY (WHICH APPEARED IN TODAY'S PRESS); AND THE
POSTURE STRUCK BY VAN DUNEM ARE NOT WITHOUT THEIR EFFECT
ON THE DANES.

9) POLCOUNS HAD A BRIEF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION TODAY
WITH THE CHIEF OF THE MFA'S THIRD OFFICE (WHICH INCLUDES
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PAGE 04 COPENH 00436 111211Z

AFRICA), BENT HAAKONSEN, WHILE SETTING AN APPOINTMENT
FOR TOMORROW MORNING TO DISCUSS THE VISIT IN GENERAL AND PROVIDE
THE ASSURANCES RE U.S. POLICY IN ANGOLA (REF A), IN
PARTICULAR. POLCOUNS OBSERVED THAT THE CALL BY MPLA
REPS ON FOREIGN MINISTER WILL OBVIOUSLY BE USED BY THE
FORMER TO DEMONSTRATE DANISH GOVERNMENT SUPPORT.

10) HAAKONSEN DEMURRED AND SAID THAT,IF NECESSARY,
THE DANES WOULD ISSUE STATEMENT TO THE CONTRARY. HE
CONTINUED THAT DANISH RECOGNITION OF ANY ANGOLAN
FACTION IS NO NEARER TODAY THAN LAST NOVEMBER; THAT A
"SIMILAR" RECEPTION WOULD BE OFFERED UNITA AND FNLA
REPS (REFS B AND C); AND THT DENMARK WOULD CONSULT
CLOSELY WITH ITS NORDIC AND EC NEIGHBORS BEFORE MOVING
ON RECOGNITION.

11) AT MEETING TOMORROW, WE WILL STRONGLY URGE THE DANES TO
CONTINUE THEIR POLICY OF NON-RECOGNITION.
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